



Florida House of Representatives HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida
32399-1300

Adam Hasner
Majority Leader

322 The Capitol
(850) 488-1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2010

CONTACT: Joseph Agostini
(850) 488-1993

HOUSE COUNCIL MOVES TO PROTECT FLORIDIANS' RIGHTS

~Measures protect Floridians' freedom from Washington mandates, intrusion~

TALLAHASSEE - The House Rules & Calendar Council passed several measures to send a clear signal to Washington that Floridians reject intrusive health care mandates, out-of-control spending and job-killing caps on greenhouse gases.

House Joint Resolution (HJR) 37 sponsored by Representative Scott Plakon (R-Longwood) passed in the House Rules & Calendar Council. The resolution proposes an amendment to the State Constitution prohibiting the Federal Government from interfering with an individual's personal health care decisions. The Federal Health Care Reform legislation recently signed into law by President Obama forces uninsured individuals to purchase health insurance or face penalties imposed by the IRS. Representative Plakon, sponsor of the measure, issued the following statement:

"Today's vote signifies that the Florida House believes Floridians are not property of the state, but free souls under God. I want to make it clear that I am for health care reform. But reform cannot come at the expense of individual rights and freedoms guaranteed to Floridians by the U.S. and State Constitutions. With this vote, we are one step closer to giving Floridians the freedom to decide if they want to be forced to purchase health insurance."

A measure directed at curbing Big Government job-killing energy proposals moved through the Council as well. House Memorial (HM) 1535 by Representative Sandy Adams (R-Oviedo) urges Congress to reject Cap & Trade legislation that will artificially raise energy prices for consumers and place an undue burden on the economy and the people of the United States for little or no environmental benefit. Representative Adams, sponsor of the memorial, released the following statement:

"I am a believer that we must leave the earth in better condition than how we found it, but to implement Washington's job-killing Cap & Trade legislation at a time when our economy is fighting to generate jobs is unwise and ill-conceived."

(more)

“This intrusive policy will artificially raise energy prices for consumers and impose a burden on American businesses that will place America at a disadvantage to compete in the global marketplace on equal footing with countries like China, India and Russia, all of which have no similar restriction placed on their industrial sector. HM 1535 allows Florida’s job-generators’ voices to be heard on this critical issue,” concluded Adams.

A final measure was passed opposing government out-of-control spending. SCR 10, also known as the Federal Balanced Budget Resolution, passed out of the Council. The measure urges Congress to call a Constitutional Convention for the purpose of proposing an amendment to U.S. Constitution to limit the ability of Congress to dictate to states requirements for expenditure of federal funds and to balance the federal budget.

“Floridians want their voices to be heard in Washington. Collectively, each of these common-sense initiatives call on Congress to control the spending that is bankrupting our country both fiscally and morally, reject intrusive health care mandates and encourage competition. Our freedoms are under attack from ever-growing demands of bigger government, higher taxes and out-of-control spending,” stated House Majority Leader Adam Hasner (R-Delray Beach). “We must be vigilant and exert pressure to force Congress to do the right thing.”

“It is critical that we explore the constitutionality of Washington’s actions, especially in these times when Big Government continues to invade the private lives of our citizens,” said Chairman of the House Rules & Calendar Council Chairman Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton). “The measures passed today are important steps toward protecting the rights and freedoms of all Floridians from the intrusion of Big Government.”

###